GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:205
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Supply of Drinking Water in Border, Remote and Backward Areas
Poddar Smt. Aparupa

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special scheme has been formulated to maintain the quality of water and to ensure supply of drinking water in the border, remote and backward areas in the country including West Bengal and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether any mechanism is in place to periodically assess the quality of drinking water and if so, the details thereof and the interval at which drinking water samples are drawn for testing; and
(c) whether there are shortage of laboratories and trained staff for testing water samples and if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken thereon along with outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State Subject. For improving the coverage and maintaining the quality of drinking water supply to rural population by the State, this Ministry provides financial & technical assistance through Centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). While doing so, this Ministry does not make any distinction in terms of border, remote and backward areas.

(b) Yes. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has published the Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol and widely distributed to all the States upto the district level in February 2013. The State level laboratory shall focus on monitoring of all water quality parameters. The district, sub-divisional and block level laboratories should monitor twice a year every source for bacteriological parameters and once a year for chemical parameters. State-wise list of water quality testing laboratories as reported by the states into Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 01/02/2017 is at Annexure.
(c) To maintain the quality of water, there is need for proper testing, laboratories and trained staff for testing of samples. For the same, Ministry has advised states to go as per provisions under Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol circulated to them. Since it is a continuous process and need based, state has been continuously asked to focus on the same and take suitable measures.